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- Enviropig™ considered officially “not toxic” in Canada

FOR THE RECORD
- New later sign-up deadline for Canadian producers

THOUGHTS FROM 109 KILDEE

Early Weaning Age Calculator
At IPIC our educational and informational programming and offerings are guided by our mission: “Our mission is to promote efficient pork production technologies in Iowa, maintain Iowa’s pork industry leadership and strengthen rural development efforts.” (Learn more about us on our Web site http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/about.html) One of the ways we do this is by working with others to provide low and no-cost software to help producers succeed, and one of the latest software offerings is already making itself well-known. The “Economics of Weaning Age Calculator” was developed by Derald Holtkamp of the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine’s Vet Diagnostic & Production Animal Medicine department. The Excel-based spreadsheet helps producers evaluate effects of increasing weaning age, including how their breeding inventory must change. Users enter operation-specific production and financial information to develop a baseline, and can evaluate alternative breeding herd inventories and weaning ages for up to four scenarios. It’s available at no charge in Excel® 2003 and Excel® 2007 versions. Both are available by completing a registration form on the IPIC Web site Go to http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/software.html and select “Spreadsheets.” Then choose the appropriate registration link for the version of the spreadsheet. In the past week alone, more than 20 people from around the nation and world have requested and received the spreadsheet.

NEWS
NPPC and NPB launch PorkCares.com
The new Web site www.porkcares.com provides a more visual and visible look at the “We Care” initiative from National Pork Board that began in 2009. The new site will include videos, testimonials, interviews and links to accurate information on today’s modern pork production operations. Already the PorkCares Web site contains an explanation of the “We Care” program and commitment, describes the PQAPlus® and TQA® programs, and offers a variety of links for viewers to find more information from appropriate sources on the programs, groups and organizations that are part of the U.S. pork industry.

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PorkCast program on reducing piglet mortality in open pens
Interested in learning more about reducing piglet mortality in open pen group farrowing systems? You’ll want to plan to spend your lunch hour on Friday in front of your computer. Yuzhi Li of the University of Minnesota’s West Central Research and Outreach Center will share results from her research in a free
session in UMN’s PorkCast program series. The hour-long program begins at 12:30 p.m. Central Time. Go to www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast and click on the link to this program, which will be listed under the "Next PorkCast Program" section. Enter your name to be connected to the program that features effects of sow parity, litter size and birth weight on survival. NOTE: this URL also has links to all of the past PorkCast programs

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PRODUCTION TIP
Consider PQAPlus site status
Every business needs a periodic review of its goals, processes and end product, and this includes pork producers. Progressive pork producers participate in the National Pork Board’s Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQAPlus®) program. A voluntary educational program, PQAPlus® provides the pork industry with a valid certification process regarding on-farm food safety and animal welfare. While there is widespread participation in PQAPlus® certification, the Site Assessment portion of PQAPlus® also is strongly encouraged. This portion provides a third eye perspective of the farm in terms of animal welfare and production parameters. PQAPlus® is just one of the many ways that the industry is actively assuring consumers that America's pork is the most wholesome around. Check out the IPIC page of PQAPlus® (and TQA®, Transport Quality Assurance) sessions being offered by ISU Extension folks http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html

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IT’S A DATE
Continuing. FSQA training and testing sessions for Iowa 4-H’ers. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/FSQA10.html for date, location and contact information

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Continuing. PQAPlus® and TQA® producer certification sessions. See the IPIC web site here http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/PQAPlus.html for date, location and contact information.

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March 9-12. Iowa Pork Regional Conferences. At four locations around the state. IPIC, IPPA and ISU Extension are co-sponsors. No cost when preregistered at least two business days in advance. All programs run from 1 to 4:30 p.m. See the news release here http://snipr.com/nn10regconf
  • March 9. Sheldon, NICC, 603 West Park Street, Building C Auditorium.
  • March 10. Carroll, Carrollton Inn, 1730 Hwy. 71 N.
  • March 11. Nashua, Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm, Borlaug Learning Center, 3327 290th St.
  • March 12. Ainsworth, Marr Park Conservation Center, 2943 Hwy 92

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March 10. Swine production seminar. Expo Center, 1602 15th St., Spirit Lake. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Hubbard Feeds, ISU Extension and University of Minnesota Extension. No cost and no preregistration required. See more info in this news release http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2010/mar/150501.htm

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DID YOU KNOW?
Enviropig™ considered officially “not toxic” in Canada
The genetically enhanced line of Yorkshire pigs known as Enviropigs™ has been determined by Environment Canada to be not toxic to the environment under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. The declaration allows this University of Guelph’s project to move closer to full regulatory approval. Enviropigs™ have been mentioned in NEWS NOW, but here’s a refresher: According to the U of G Web site (http://www.uoguelph.ca/enviropig/) these pigs produce phytase in their salivary glands. When secreted in saliva the phytase mixes with feed as it’s chewed, eventually digesting phosphorus in the feed. This means less phosphorus from manure spread on land and lower potential water pollution from
phosphorus. A second benefit is that feed is less costly because there’s no need to add phytase. Even though the pigs are now considered non-toxic, there are plenty of hurdles to overcome before Enviropig™ pork ends up on dinner tables. Read this story on the CTV News Web site for more info http://snipr.com/nn030810enviropigs

FOR THE RECORD
New later sign-up deadline for Canadian producers
A move by Canada’s federal government has given pork producers an additional 25 days (new deadline of March 25) to apply for a loan through the Hog Industry Loan Loss Reserve Program (HILLRP). Designed to increase credit for eligible pork producers who’re remaining in the business, HILLRP will help spread short-term payments over a longer period of time to help free up cash. Read more in this release from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada http://snipr.com/nn030810canagdeadline

NEWS NOW from the Iowa Pork Industry Center  www.ipic.iastate.edu
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